

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 3. 1709.

IT has always been the Usage of this Paper and of its Author in all Cases, never to strike his Enemy when he is down— 'Tis not a generous English Way of Fighting—and I scorn the Advantage of it— If the Author of *Scandal*, if the *Rebeareſal* reviv'd is taken up, and fallen, through any of his Inadvertencies, into the Hands of the Government, he has enough upon him, I wish him well out again; I shall never officiouſly prompt any Man's Disasters.

But to you, Gentlemen, who call yourſelves Friends to the Church of England—or who are Teachers and Minifters of the Church of England, give me leave to offer one *Eclaircifſement* to you for the reſtoring

your reflecting Faculties in this Case— You may even in this Case ſee, how you are us'd in the World, and who-underhand, screws and works you up, as if you were meer Engines or Machines, and makes you ſubſerve to their vile Projects in all your *Higb-Flying Extravagancies*— You may ſee it plainly in this—That whenever a virulent Pamphlet, a *Higb-Church Memorial*, a *Scots Narrative*, or any ſuch inflaming Libel is publish'd— The Authors are all Non-Jurors— Your *Rebeareſal* formerly written, your New *Rebeareſal* reviv'd, your *Novel* and *Scandal*, all profesi'd Non-Jurors— These, whose Interēſt it is to be your Dividers and your Drefroyers; These are your Pamphleteers, and

and set up to be your Defenders —— Scandalous Blindness ! How can you be so dark ! How is it possible, Men in their Sences should be thus impos'd upon ! *Cath. Non-Juror argue for the Church ?* — Can he be suppos'd to defend the Clergy, and support the Constitution of the Church ! Just so this is, and no more, than *Guy Fawkes*'s Timber and Stones, which he hid in the Cellar, were to support the Foundations of the Parliament House, and preserve the Assembly that met above — Whereas in Truth they were laid to hide Gun-Powder that was laid under them, and to assist in carrying up the whole Building, when the Mine was to be fir'd.

Awake, Gentlemen, and rouze you selves for Shame —— Can *Jacobites* and *Non-Jurors* be your Defence — Do they not disown your Establishment ? Do they not declare you Schismatical ? Do they not tell you, you are fallen from the true Foundation ? Have they not unbishop'd all your Prelates, and ungospeliz'd all your Ministers ; unhing'd all your Establishment, and unbleis'd your Sovereign and Head ? — Do not they reserve their Allegiance for another Line, their Worship in another Synagogue ? — Do they not pray to God to dethrone and depose your QUEEN, in constantly praying for the restoring a contemptible Pretender ? — In a Word, Are they not in close Confederacy with *France*, and *Hell*, to undermine the Revolution, unravel the Succession, and invade the Union ?

And are these your Teachers ? — Are these your blessed Oracles, whose Libels you read with pleasure, whose Volumes you collect, who you permit to summon your Clergy to exert themselves, *Rehearsal Reviv'd*, Vol. II. p. 2. What, Gentlemen ! has the Church of *England* no Defender of her own, no Champions to plead her Cause, or Fight her Battles — but these that damn her Constitution, and declare War against her Establishment ? This is very hard — The Case of the Church of *England* will be sad indeed — She will be crucified between Thieves indeed at this rate, when Non-Jurors on one Hand, and High-Flyers on the other, surround her — What is become of the Learning, Wit, and Vigour, the Vi-

vacity of Spirit, Beauty of Stile, and Strength of Argument that use to appear among the Writers of the Church of *England* ? Certainly, either the Men are all dead, and there are none left in the Church able to defend her ; all her present Clergy are ignorant, incapable, dull, and sleepy, and not able to speak a Word for her — or else the Case is quite another than we understand it — The Quarrel is not right, that the Men of Capacity, Honour, Part, and Integrity in the Church are on the other Side, and will not meddle with it.

And indeed here is the Case in few words — The Wise, Sober, Judicious, Learned Men among the Church abhor this Strife, the Contention is detestable — They cannot bear their Heads in *Jacobite Confusions*, or their Pens in Defence of High-flying Absurdities — Moderation and Christian Charity to Dissenters, Union with a Sister Nation of Protestants — Establishing the Succession in a Protestant Line, these are things so evidently valuable, so happy to us all, so essential to our Peace, and of such infinite Consequence to us all, that these Gentlemen cannot find it reasonable to oppose them ; They see the Safety of the Church in those very things in which this furious Party cries out of Danger and Destruction, and they see Danger and Destruction in those very things that this wicked Party pretend Safety and Deliverance : Wise Men are always Men of Peace, and Good Men, Men of Moderation —

This is the Reason why, when you come to enquire into *Rehearsals* and *Post-scripts*, *Memorials* and *Narratives*, and all your raving Pamphlets, you find the Authors all, every one of them Non-Jurors.

This is the Reason, when Dr. S—— listed up his bloody Flag lately at St. Paul's, the Honest, Wise, Judicious Gentlemen that beard him, would not accept his Invitation to Blood, nor thank him for his laudable Endeavours of inflaming the Nation.

This is the Reason, why her Majesty has so frequently pledg'd Her MAIDEN HONOUR, I mean that ROYAL WORD,

WORD, which, contrary to the Usage of Princes, especially in this Age, was NEVER YET broken; that the Toleration shall be preserved INVOLABLE.

This was the Reason, why the Parliament, tho' Nineteen Pairs of Twenty were profess'd Members of the Church of *England*, yet rejected that illegal Project of the Occasional Bill.

This was the Reason why the Nation spued out the TACKERS at the next Election, and of the Hundred Thirty Four, few above a Third could ever get into the House again.

This is the Reason, why the Honour of the Government is given now to the People of *Scotland*, to assure them of a punctual Regard to the Union, which that wretched Party are Daily encroaching upon by Jacobite Innovations.

This is the Reason why the Pamphlets and Clamours of *Jacobites* are suppress'd,

and the Government keeps Steady to the Principle of preserving the Nation's Peace.

Certainly the Eyes of the World will some time or other be opened—and they will see—That while these Wolves keep the Sheep, they have something else in View, than preserving the Fold—The Cause must have something else in it, when it is defended by such Advocates: The Church of *England* certainly cannot be reduc'd to that pass, to be defended by *Jacobites*—Those to plead for her, that hate and disown her; those to be her Champions, that are her declar'd Enemies—Lamentable Auxiliaries these will be indeed—if they Conquer in her Name they'll serve her just as our Ancestors here did the poor *Britains*, first Save them, and then Devour them—if they are Conquered, they'll let her fall, and stand at a Distance to Laugh at her Destruction.

MISCELLANEA.

Among the mighty Arguments of a late Paper against Atheism and Error, the Liberty of the Press was brought as a particular Thing; which being restrained, would go a great way to prevent those Mischiefs—Now waving my needful Remark on the other, pernicious Designs which visibly appeared in the great Clamour they raised at the Liberty of the Press, I took the Freedom to give my Thoughts on the same Head.

I agree in complaining of the present Scandalous Liberty of the Press—I'll state it briefly with its Evils and Remedies.

The Evil Consequences of the present Liberty of the Press are such as these.

1. The scandalous and unjust Invasions of Property—by which Printers and

Booksellers now make Inroads upon one another, and upon Authors, with the same Honesty and Freedom, as plundering on the High-Way would be done, if there were no Law against Robbery; and this is an Evil so fatal, and so just a Reproach to a well-govern'd Nation, that it is a most unaccountable Thing, by what ill Fate the Attempts to rectify it have hitherto been rendred Abortive.

2. The great Discouragement this is to Learning and Industry, by which Means already the best Writers of this Age have laid down and despair'd; being not willing to spend their Days and Labour to be devoured by Thieves; and all the mighty Works of this Age are summ'd up in the poultry Collections of Booksellers, and *Hackneys employ'd by them*; upon which they put the gay Titles of Histories, Annals, Voy-